

the end of the Session - the course of the Democrats is plainly, to continue taking Despositions as long as possible & then to consume the residue of the Session in debating the questions, arising on the depositions. - As yet we have only shown about 16 voters not entitled by reason of their being *Landless* men & about 12 or 14 who having had land, made Deeds of Trust, (as yet unclosed), although we fully count upon shewing 5 or 6 more who did not own any land; thus far as to Capt B.'s friends - this morning the Capt. opens his batteries & judging from the two first witnesses examined by him, he has utterly failed to sustain two men whom I had shewn unqualified.- It is believed he may possibly shew 3 or 4 of my votes, but not more, to have been spurious- We shall see in three days what they can do. Now what I desire to ask, is, what is yr. opinion of the course I ought to take in the event of the Senate's sending the election back to the people? I am clear, that I ought not to touch it, - not only because I will not be again harrassed with such a filthy scramble with such dirty wretches, but because I do not think it comports with the character I have *sustained thus far* to continue a contest in which there is really *any* doubt whether I am the choice of the people of Orange- I am told sundry of my friends have left the State since 7. Novr. but whether a greater number of B's may not have left also I am unadvised.- It is true my taking the seat *might* ensure the election of a Whig U. S. Senator & if so I would submit to any personal inconvenience or even humiliation, which did not involve dishonor. - Please give me yr. advice immediately.

I have now said all I intended on the contemptible scuffle in which I am engaged. But I have not room left in which to pour out my heart in expressions of gratitude to God, & of triumph as a patriot for our recent glorious victory achieved on the 7. Nov. & still less room have I to express my individual thanks to you for the brilliant & effective services rendered by you in this great struggle for freedom against the most profligate & dangerous party which has *ever* wielded the sceptre of Political power in America.—

I see the Prest. has shot Parthian arrows⁵⁷ in his late message, at which I knew not whether the American people ought

⁵⁷When Congress convened in December, 1848, Polk delivered a message in which he advocated the extension of the Missouri Compromise line as a solution of the slavery question. Collamer, of Vermont, compared him to a lawyer "who, being reprimanded for contending against the opinion of the judge, replied that 'he was not rearguing the case, *but damning the decision.*'" McCormac, *James K. Polk*, 717.